

Department of Public Works (DPW)



- The city has 45 miles of streets (measured along centerlines) which DPW is responsible for maintaining, cleaning, and removing snow and ice.
- DPW is responsible for refuse collection and disposal, and maintenance services for city sidewalks, public parking lots, storm sewers, waterways, city parks, buildings and facilities except the fire station. It is also responsible for public safety department signage and traffic lights.
- The department is staffed by 15 DPW employees, five water department employees, three parks maintenance employees, as well as some seasonal workers.
- We have been issued a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Grant to redo our Main Street as well as some buildings downtown. Awarded in 2017, the city is slowly moving to starting this large, complicated project. I believe the plans are close to being completed to reconfigure Main Street as a two-way street (sorry, not a fan).

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Create an aggressive paving and repair plan that addresses every street in the city; make the plan available on the city website for City residents to view and understand.
- ✓ Prioritize street paving and repair based on their condition and the upgrades needed (e.g., sewer and water lines).

- ✓ Establish a working calendar planning all construction projects around community events (e.g., don't start work on college hill during graduation week).
- ✓ Schedule water and sewer repairs the year prior to scheduling paving work.
- ✓ Set schedule to minimize the time between grinding, utility work and paving. Also, verify all major construction areas are planned and marked properly for traffic and pedestrians.
- ✓ Evaluate and replace curbs as needed; remove weeds to prevent damage to black top.
- ✓ Lobby state and federal officials on all opportunities to maximize funding for infrastructure repair and replacement.
- ✓ Create a street maintenance plan that includes a street sweeper program to clean Main St. every other day and every other street once a month in each season except winter.
- ✓ Create an online public work order request system to enable city residents and businesses to notify the city of hazards and needed work.
- ✓ If Main St. is made two-way as part of the DRI Grant, this major change will be challenging for businesses and residents. There will need to be great attention paid to controlling dust, unnecessary mess and congestion, and holding contractors to deadlines. Coordination and cooperation will be needed to keep customers coming downtown during the renovations. My background in project management will help in working with our department heads and contractors in making the best we can of this. Long term, this infrastructure improvement will be of great benefit to our city.
- ✓ Work with state Department of Transportation to eliminate tractor trailer traffic on Tompkins St. and Port Watson St. This will help reduce noise, congestion, street and bridge wear.

- ✓ Review the purpose, function, and timing of traffic lights at intersections; install sensors for traffic lights for more efficient traffic control, reducing the long waits with nobody moving.
- ✓ Assess current blue bag trash system and consider alternatives; review the confusing recycling program requirements; work with the county on a recycling education program.
- ✓ Review tree planting and maintenance program; prioritize tree trimming to prevent trees from growing too large and causing damage to sidewalks and streets; plant more trees where needed and possible.
- ✓ Assess signage needs and condition; replace, eliminate, straighten, and redesign signs as determined to be necessary.
- ✓ Negotiate with National Grid to upgrade lighting throughout the city; improve lighting in dark areas, and create warm and safe lighting.
- ✓ Review sidewalk funding program and provide for more sidewalk replacements; create a better sidewalk replacement inspection program. When sidewalks are replaced, they need to be installed in a way that frost won't move them and cause trip hazards.
- ✓ Ensure all street crossings are ADA compliant and crosswalk buttons are accessible. We need to take extra effort in making sure all needs are met for safe, accessible intersections.
- ✓ Ensure all railroad crossings are ADA compliant, as well as that road paving and sidewalks are smooth, and lighting is safe for pedestrians and vehicles.
- ✓ Create a fleet management and equipment repair plan. This can reduce costs and spread costs out more efficiently.

- ✓ Work with other municipalities to create a network of shared resources, knowledge, and equipment to enable less costly and more timely response to equipment failures and emergency situations (e.g., sewer extractor specialty equipment).
- ✓ Review the city's yard waste program, which includes high-cost equipment for grinding branches. Discuss even more possibilities for cooperative opportunities with the county and other municipalities.
- ✓ Establish trash compactor and grease recycling programs for downtown area businesses and apartments. As downtown living is increasing above our buildings on Main Street, we need to review our removal and recycling program. We currently see many problems with unsightly dumpsters and trash bags ripped open littering the streets and alleys.